

Our Young People

DRIFTING—Eph. 4: 14; Jas. 1: 1-8

Topic for August 6.

Drifting away from the Savior's love,
Drifting away from the Father's care,
Out in the wicked world to rove,
Drifting, drifting, he knows not where.

This is the story of many a young man and woman. More are lost by drifting than in all other ways together. People do not go to the bad by a single leap but by gradual drifting. Lot pitched toward Sodom and therefore eventually found himself in Sodom with his children ruined—forever. A young man or woman pitches toward Sodom when they leave go the anchor of prayer and Bible reading, when they cast away the counsels of their parents, when they listen to the mockings of worldly companions, when they stifle their conscience to indulge in questionable amusements. The second step is easier and shorter than the first and the third quickly follows the second. The young man says, "I can drink or I can let it alone," then he does not let it alone and in due time he is in the gutter. The young woman says, "There is no harm in dancing," and joins the giddy whirl only to find when her eyes opened, if they ever are opened, that if she be not betrayed and ruined, at least for a morsel of pleasure she has bargained away her love for Christ and the church, and for a desire to be useful in life has come to have only a selfish craving for pleasure.

Old people who have experienced some of the dangers of drifting can speak words of warning, but how many boys and girls in their 'teens imagine that they know better and on they go until they end in wreck. The topic this week ought to be thoroughly studied beforehand so that the meeting may be intensely earnest. The leader's responsibility is very great. Souls may be saved and wayward ones reclaimed by a proper presentation of this topic.

Scripture help on Drifting

The first step—neglect,

1. Of prayer, Mark 14: 38.
2. Of Bible reading, II Tim. 3: 16; I Tim. 4: 16.
3. Of church, Heb. 10: 25.
4. Of good works, I Tim. 4: 7; Heb. 13: 16.

The second step—worldliness,

5. Bad company, Col. 2: 4; Ps. 1: 1.
6. Self-indulgence, Gal. 5: 17-21.
7. Pride, I Pet. 5: 5.
8. Avarice, I Tim. 6: 10.
9. Enmity, Gal. 5: 15.

The third step—willful sin,

10. I Tim. 4: 1, 2.
11. Jude 8 to 13.

The end—destruction,

12. II Pet. 2: 1.
13. Phil. 3: 19.
14. Therefore take heed, Heb. 2: 1.
15. Examine yourselves, II Cor. 13: 5.

QUESTIONS

1. What do we mean by drifting?
 2. How does drifting come about?
 3. What are some signs of drifting?
 4. How prevent drifting?
 5. What lesson can we learn on drifting from Solomon? From Lot? From Sampson?
 6. How may we help those who are drifting?
- Have a general testimony meeting on the dangers of drifting.

C. F. YODER.

Observations on the Detroit C. E. Convention.

Time and space will permit only a few thoughts on this great convention but perhaps this will suffice as Brother Rench has already given a good report.

1. The most manifest feature of the convention perhaps was the happy spirit of

Christianity it exemplified. The Endeavorers went singing everywhere and the city caught the songs and from the little news-boys to the inmates of fine homes the people joined the chorus of praise. It is a good token that such a happy form of Christianity dominates the young people's movement.

2. Another noticeable feature was the effort to make the enthusiasm of the meeting take a practical form. There were scores of noon-day meetings on the streets, in factories and everywhere the people could be found. More than a hundred conversions were reported as a result of these meetings. It has been charged against such conventions that they are too much parade affairs but the charge can no longer be made. At one place two hundred factory girls were missed by the workers and the owner of the factory swore about it and tore down all the C. E. bunting from the building. The Endeavor workers heard of it and sent a large band there next day and held one of their best meetings. It is another good token when people are hungering and thirsting and actually swearing for the gospel and when the young people are willing to take the gospel to the masses in these practical ways. The church needs more of this sort of go to reach the masses in the highways and hedges.

3. The fellowship enjoyed at the meeting was inspiring. There was no north nor south, east nor west—all were one in Christ. The spirit of brotherly love extended far beyond the delegates. The people of the city caught it and tumbled over each other to be of service to the strangers. One street car conductor was moved to tears because the Endeavorers called him "brother," and one of them said, "we are praying for you."

4. The fellowship was not only of denominations but of nationalities. One felt like shouting because of the bond of love which is making war between nations more and more impossible. Several times the convention sung "America," then followed with "God Save the Queen," then "The International Hymn" and closed with "Blest be the tide that binds." It was to the convention that the news was first cabled of the success of the peace conference at the Hague in arranging for a permanent peace tribunal. The news was cheered by the Endeavor, thousands led by E. O. Excell in a way that must have echoed back to the Hague.

5. After these eighteen years of growing success one cannot charge the movement with being ephemeral. It has been wisely guided and kept free from hobbies and foolish side issues. Its main principles so often reaffirmed will hold it to its great mission.

6. The meetings for Bible study conducted by Prof. Moorhead, Dr. Willits and Rev. Gibberd were overflowing. The faith of the young people is not to be blind and unreasoning but intelligent. They love the word and will be able to give a reason for the faith that is in them.

7. The demonstrations at the meetings for Sabbath observance indicated plainly the determination of the young people to be loy-

al to that divine institution. Hosts of Endeavorers could be seen walking long distances to church rather than ride on the street cars on Sunday. Among these was Charles M. Sheldon, the great novelist whose books ought to be read by everyone.

8. There was nothing in the whole convention to discourage loyalty to one's own denomination. About thirty five were represented and denominational rallies were among the most enthusiastic meetings.

9. One marked feature of the convention was the "quiet hour meetings" led by Dr. J. Wilbur Chapman. Early in the morning thousands would gather for these devotional meetings and were helped by this man of God into more fully surrendered lives.

10. Above all it was shown that the C. E. movement seeks not to be an end in itself but simply an auxiliary to the church.

When the S. S. workers were asked to rise almost every Endeavorer stood up, and the vote for mid-week prayer-meeting workers was almost as unanimous. Over a million and a half of young people have joined the church thru the C. E. movement.

At a meeting of pastors the testimony was unanimous of the good help of the C. E. in every way. The movement is but gathering together its strength for the great work of the great century now dawning upon us.

C. F. YODER.

Detroit Convention Notes

The large crowds arriving almost continuously by water and land routes were handled with skill. In one hour after stepping off the train I had registered and was in my room in a private home.

Twenty-eight thousand people divided in two audiences, but near each other, singing praises to God as Endeavorers can sing is an inspiring spectacle.

What if Christendom were one, "as thou, Father, art in me, and I in thee?"

The streets were made to ring with "Jesus Saves" and other songs.

Almost every street-car seemed to carry a chorus. No wonder the newspaper pictured the devil as having packed his grip and leaving. Dr. Henson, in his address on "Satan and Cities" said he hoped he would never come back.

The denominational rallies were a feature.

What opportunities the Brethren had for making our plea known. We ought to have had a table in the literature building where tracts could have been handed out to the thousands. But alas! leaders have cried out to our young people "Halt! Face about! take to the woods, or your minds will be poisoned and your faith destroyed!" Shame! You people who are ashamed or afraid to raise your voices in support of your doctrine in such an assembly, what will you do before the hosts of heaven? I still hope that our people will see fit to stand by the resolution passed which is printed on the first page of the K. C. Constitution, that we may be united.

Come back to your agreement, Brethren.